

In the Claims:

1-80. (Cancelled)

81. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a mirrored service comprising:
configuring a distributed director with criteria for service selection;
assigning a weight to each criterion;
assigning a priority to each criterion;
determining if that metric information is required by at least one of the criteria each
criterion;
requesting metric information for each mirrored service for each criterion for which
metric information is required; if metric information is required by the criterion; and
~~applying a selection algorithm based on the metric information, the priorities, and the~~
~~weights of the criteria to select a mirrored service.~~
comparing the requested metric information of at least one of the criteria with the
highest priority for each mirrored service;
selecting the service with the fastest metric information with respect to the highest
priority criterion;
determining that the metric information of the highest priority criterion is equal for
two or more mirrored services and in response comparing the metric information of the
criterion with the next highest priority for each mirrored service; and
selecting the service with the fastest metric information with respect to the next
highest priority criterion.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 81 wherein the criteria comprises members from the set consisting of a portion scheme, an administrative cost scheme, a random scheme, a round trip time scheme, an external metrics scheme, an internal metrics scheme, a server metrics scheme, a local preferences scheme, a community attributes scheme, and a BGP attribute scheme.

83. (Cancelled)

84. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a mirrored service comprising:
a distributed director operable to:
be configured with criteria for service selection;
assign a weight to each criteria;
assign a priority to each criterion;
determine if that metric information is required by at least one of the criteria
~~each criterion;~~
request metric information for each mirrored service for each criterion for
which metric information is required; ~~if metric information is required by the criterion;~~ and
apply a selection algorithm, said algorithm comprising based on the metric
~~information, the priorities, and the weights of the criteria to select a mirrored service.~~
comparing the requested metric information of at least one of the criteria with the
highest priority for each mirrored service;
selecting the service with the fastest metric information with respect to the highest
priority criterion;
determining that the metric information of the highest priority criterion is equal for
two or more mirrored services and in response comparing the metric information of the
criterion with the next highest priority for each mirrored service; and
selecting the service with the fastest metric information with respect to the next
highest priority criterion.

85. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 84 wherein the criteria comprises members from the set consisting of a portion scheme, an administrative cost scheme, a random scheme, a round trip time scheme, an external metrics scheme, an internal metrics scheme, a server metrics scheme, a local preferences scheme, a community attributes scheme, and a BGP attribute scheme.

86. (Cancelled)

87. (Currently Amended) A distributed director comprising:
logic encoded in a computer readable media operable to:
 be configured with criteria for service selection;
 assign a weight to each criterion;
 assign a priority to each criterion;
 determine if that metric information is required by at least one of the criteria
~~each criterion;~~
 request metric information for each mirrored service for each criterion for
which metric information is required ~~if metric information is required for the criterion; and~~
 apply a selection algorithm said algorithm comprising based on the metric
~~information, the priorities, and the weights of the criteria to select a mirrored service.~~
 comparing the requested metric information of at least one of the criteria with the
highest priority for each mirrored service;
 selecting the service with the fastest metric information with respect to the highest
priority criterion;
 determining that the metric information of the highest priority criterion is equal for
two or more mirrored services and in response comparing the metric information of the
criterion with the next highest priority for each mirrored service; and
 selecting the service with the fastest metric information with respect to the next
highest priority criterion.

88. (Previously Presented) The distributed director of Claim 87 wherein the criteria comprises members from the set consisting of a portion scheme, an administrative cost scheme, a random scheme, a round trip time scheme, an external metrics scheme, an internal metrics scheme, a server metrics scheme, a local preferences scheme, a community attributes scheme, and a BGP attribute scheme.

89. (Cancelled)